



**Technical Report Series on the  
Biosystem-Aerosphere Study (BOREAS)**

*Series Editor*

**232**

**AS TGB-5 Fire History of  
1991 in Vector Format**

*R. Zepp, and D. Knapp*

**Aeronautics and  
Administration**

**Space Flight Center  
Maryland 20771**

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## **Technical Report Series on the Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study (BOREAS)**

*Forrest G. Hall and Sara K. Conrad, Editors*

### **Volume 232**

## **BOREAS TGB-5 Fire History of Manitoba 1980 to 1991 in Vector Format**

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National Aeronautics and  
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# **BOREAS TGB-5 Fire History of Manitoba 1980 to 1991 in Vector Format**

Brian J. Stocks, Richard G. Zepp, David Knapp

## **Summary**

The BOREAS TGB-5 team collected several data sets related to the effects of fire on the exchange of trace gases between the surface and the atmosphere. This vector format data set covers the province of Manitoba between 1980 and 1991 and was produced by Forestry Canada from hand-drawn boundaries of fires on photocopies of 1:250,000 scale maps. The locational accuracy of the data is considered fair to poor. When the locations of some fire boundaries were compared to Landsat TM images, they were found to be off by as much as a few kilometers.

Note that some of the data set files on the BOREAS CD-ROMs have been compressed using the Gzip program. See Section 8.2 for details.

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## **1. Data Set Overview**

### **1.1 Data Set Identification**

BOREAS TGB-05 Fire History of Manitoba 1980 to 1991 in Vector Format

### **1.2 Data Set Introduction**

This data set covers the province of Manitoba and was produced by Forestry Canada from hand-drawn boundaries of fires on photocopies of 1:250,000-scale maps. The locational accuracy of these data is considered fair to poor. When the locations of some fire boundaries were compared to Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) images, they were found to be off by as much as a few kilometers. This problem should be kept in mind when using these data.

### **1.3 Objective/Purpose**

These data are provided as part of the BOREal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study (BOREAS) Trace Gas Biogeochemistry (TGB)-05 team data collection activities. The objective of collecting these data was to give BOREAS investigators a product showing the spatial distribution of fires in the province of Manitoba.

### **1.4 Summary of Parameters**

This data set provides information indicating whether or not a given area had a fire in a specific year.

### **1.5 Discussion**

Some investigators who have been using Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) imagery have found these data useful because they are on a scale that is suitable for 1,000-m x 1,000-m AVHRR pixels. This product is useful as a ground truth for comparing to image classifications from AVHRR imagery. However, because the location of fire polygons may be off by as much as a few kilometers, care should be taken when determining fire locations. This data set is the original vector data submitted by Forestry Canada. It was delivered as ARC/INFO Export files of polygons that identify fires from 1980 to 1991 (inclusive).

### **1.6 Related Data Sets**

BOREAS TGB-05 Fire History of Manitoba 1980 to 1991 in Raster Format  
SERM Forest Fire Chronology of Saskatchewan in Vector Format

## **2. Investigator(s)**

### **2.1 Investigator(s) Name and Title**

Brian J. Stocks  
Richard G. Zepp

### **2.2 Title of Investigation**

Trace Gas Exchange in the Boreal Forest Biome: Effects of Fire and Beaver Activity

### **2.3 Contact Information**

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### **3. Theory of Measurements**

As stated above, this product was created for BOREAS investigators who are interested in the fire history of this area. It could be used for ground truth of satellite image classifications and to get an estimate of the amount of burned area. The way in which these data were collected will have little to no impact on the theory behind the way they are being used, especially because these data are very simple and easy to understand. No information with regard to the intensity of the burn is identified in this data base. Only the presence or absence of a fire is given for each year.

### **4. Equipment**

#### **4.1 Sensor/Instrument Description**

This vector format data set was produced by Forestry Canada from hand-drawn boundaries of fires on photocopies of 1:250,000 scale maps. Apparently, the fires were mapped based on observation from the air.

##### **4.1.1 Collection Environment**

Unknown.

##### **4.1.2 Source/Platform**

Unknown.

##### **4.1.3 Source/Platform Mission Objectives**

Unknown.

##### **4.1.4 Key Variables**

Presence or absence of fire in a particular year.

##### **4.1.5 Principles of Operation**

Unknown.

##### **4.1.6 Sensor/Instrument Measurement Geometry**

Unknown.

##### **4.1.7 Manufacturer of Sensor/Instrument**

Unknown.

#### **4.2 Calibration.**

Not applicable

#### **4.2.1 Specifications**

Unknown.

##### **4.2.1.1 Tolerance**

Not applicable.

##### **4.2.2 Frequency of Calibration**

Not applicable.

##### **4.2.3 Other Calibration Information**

Not applicable.

## **5. Data Acquisition Methods**

Forestry Canada compiled these data from maps of fires in the province of Manitoba. Apparently, the fires were mapped based on observation from the air. These fire polygons were hand traced onto photocopies of 1:250,000-scale maps. The fire data were then compiled by year and hand digitized into ARC/INFO polygon coverages.

## **6. Observations**

### **6.1 Data Notes**

These data simply contain information that indicates whether a fire occurred at a particular location in a given year.

### **6.2 Field Notes**

There is no record of observations except for the actual data.

## **7. Data Description**

### **7.1 Spatial Characteristics**

#### **7.1.1 Spatial Coverage**

The data for Manitoba cover the entire province with the following approximate North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) corner coordinates:

	Longitude	Latitude
	-----	-----
Northwest	89.000W	60.000N
Northeast	102.000W	60.000N
Southeast	89.000W	49.000N
Southwest	102.000W	49.000N

#### **7.1.2 Spatial Coverage Map**

Not available.

#### **7.1.3 Spatial Resolution**

Based on the original mapping specifications, use of these data at a spatial resolution of 1,000 meters is recommended.



#### **7.1.4 Projection**

The area mapped is projected in the Platte Carre projection, which is really not a projection at all. The coordinates are longitudes and latitudes expressed in decimal degrees.

#### **7.1.5 Grid Description**

Not applicable to vector data.

### **7.2 Temporal Characteristics**

Each ARC/INFO EXPORT file contains the polygons of fires that occurred during that year. The years between 1980 and 1991 (inclusive) are in this data set.

#### **7.2.1 Temporal Coverage**

This data set covers the period between 1980 and 1991 (inclusive).

#### **7.2.2 Temporal Coverage Map**

Not available.

#### **7.2.3 Temporal Resolution**

The temporal resolution of this data set is 1 year.

### **7.3 Data Characteristics**

#### **7.3.1 Parameter/Variable**

Overall, these data simply indicate the presence or absence of a fire in a particular year over a particular area. The following columns exist in each of the coverages' polygon attribute table:

Column Name

-----

AREA

PERIMETER

COV#

COV-ID

YEAR

MONTH

DAY

FIRENUM

AREAC

AREAB

FIRENUMB

Although the MONTH and DAY columns are listed, the information is blank. Although there are identifying numbers (i.e., FIRENUM and FIRENUMB), they are not useful in terms of finding additional information about a particular fire.

#### **7.3.2 Variable Description/Definition**

The occurrence of a fire in a given year.

#### **7.3.3 Unit of Measurement**

Unitless but coded value.

#### **7.3.4 Data Source**

Forestry Canada

### 7.3.5 Data Range

Zero to one.

### 7.4 Sample Data Record

Not applicable.

## 8. Data Organization

### 8.1 Data Granularity

The smallest amount of obtainable data is the entire data set containing all of the vector layers and any supporting files.

### 8.2 Data Format(s)

#### 8.2.1 Uncompressed Data Files

The Manitoba fire history data set consists of 1 tar file (created from the UNIX "tar" command) that contains a set of 13 files. The tar file contains:

						File Name
						-----
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	356	Apr	24	16:57	1995 README.TXT
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	94993	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp80.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	156791	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp81.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	21017	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp82.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	4223	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp83.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	22673	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp84.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	70623	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp85.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	5650	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp86.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	42698	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp87.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	81117	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp88.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	1449253	May	28	11:54	1996 temp89.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	11339	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp90.e00
-rw-r--r--	11624/120	39532	Feb	10	13:26	1995 temp91.e00

Except for the README.TXT file, the files are ARC/INFO EXPORT files.

#### 8.2.2 Compressed CD-ROM Files

On the BOREAS CD-ROMs, the single tar file has been compressed with the Gzip compression program (file name \*.gz). These data have been compressed using gzip version 1.2.4 and the high compression (-9) option (Copyright (C) 1992-1993 Jean-loup Gailly). Gzip (GNU zip) uses the Lempel-Ziv algorithm (Welch, 1994) used in the zip and PKZIP programs. The compressed files may be uncompressed using gzip (-d option) or gunzip. Gzip is available from many Web sites (for example, ftp site prep.ai.mit.edu/pub/gnu/gzip-\*.\*) for a variety of operating systems in both executable and source code form. Versions of the decompression software for various systems are included on the CD-ROMs.

## **9. Data Manipulations**

### **9.1 Formulae**

No manipulations were made by BOREAS Information System (BORIS) staff; these data remain in their original form as they were submitted to BORIS.

#### **9.1.1 Derivation Techniques and Algorithms**

None.

### **9.2 Data Processing Sequence**

#### **9.2.1 Processing Steps**

BORIS staff copied and compressed the file for release on CD-ROM.

#### **9.2.2 Processing Changes**

None.

### **9.3 Calculations**

#### **9.3.1 Special Corrections/Adjustments**

None.

#### **9.3.2 Calculated Variables**

None.

### **9.4 Graphs and Plots**

None

## **10. Errors**

### **10.1 Sources of Error**

Potential sources of error in the original data set could be interpretation or digitizing error. As indicated above, the data were hand traced onto photocopied maps based on air observations. No precision mapping of the fire boundaries was done.

### **10.2 Quality Assessment**

#### **10.2.1 Data Validation by Source**

Unknown.

#### **10.2.2 Confidence Level/Accuracy Judgment**

The accuracy of the gridding procedure is high. Some consideration should be given to the scale of the original data and data gathering procedures and how they are reflected in this data set. As indicated, the locational accuracy of these data is questionable. The location of the fire boundaries could be off by as much as a few kilometers. This problem should be kept in mind when using these data.

#### **10.2.3 Measurement Error for Parameters**

Unknown.

#### **10.2.4 Additional Quality Assessments**

Unknown.

### **10.2.5 Data Verification by Data Center**

The only check on the data included visual inspection to ensure that the data could be read properly and included polygon boundaries. Some of the vector layers were compared to TM imagery of the study area. This comparison indicated that there is a discrepancy between the location of the polygons and the fires as depicted in the Landsat TM scene, which is precision corrected with Global Positioning System (GPS) and 1:50,000-scale maps. These fire history data were determined to have a locational error as high as a few kilometers.

## **11. Notes**

### **11.1 Limitations of the Data**

The precision and accuracy of this data set puts some limitations on its use. It should not be used for comparison to mapping products derived from high-resolution imagery (e.g., air photos). Care should be taken when using it with Landsat TM or other high-spatial-resolution imagery.

### **11.2 Known Problems with the Data**

As indicated above, the locational accuracy of these data is suspect because of the way in which the data were collected (see Sections 5., 10.2.1, and 10.2.2).

### **11.3 Usage Guidance**

Before uncompressing the Gzip files on CD-ROM, be sure that you have enough disk space to hold the uncompressed data files. Then use the appropriate decompression program provided on the CD-ROM for your specific system.

### **11.4 Other Relevant Information**

None.

## **12. Application of the Data Set**

Some investigators who have been using AVHRR data have found these data useful because they are on a scale that is suitable for 1-km by 1-km AVHRR pixels. This product would be useful as ground truth for comparing to image classifications from AVHRR imagery.

## **13. Future Modifications and Plans**

None.

## **14. Software**

### **14.1 Software Description**

BORIS personnel used the ARC/INFO (Version 7) software and related tools to import and view the original vector data. The ARC/INFO software is a proprietary package developed and distributed by Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). Gzip (GNU zip) uses the Lempel-Ziv algorithm (Welch, 1994) used in the zip and PKZIP commands.

## **14.2 Software Access**

ARC/INFO is proprietary software with copyright protection. Contact ESRI for details:

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI)  
380 New York St.  
Redlands, CA 92373-8100

Gzip is available from many Web sites across the Internet (for example, ftp site [prep.ai.mit.edu/pub/gnu/gzip-\\*.\\*\)](http://prep.ai.mit.edu/pub/gnu/gzip-*.*)) for a variety of operating systems in both executable and source code form. Versions of the decompression software for various systems are included on the CD-ROMs.

## **15. Data Access**

The vector format fire history data of Manitoba from 1980 to 1991 are available from the Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC).

### **15.1 Contact Information**

For BOREAS data and documentation please contact:

ORNL DAAC User Services  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 2008 MS-6407  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6407  
Phone: (423) 241-3952  
Fax: (423) 574-4665  
E-mail: [ornldaac@ornl.gov](mailto:ornldaac@ornl.gov) or [ornl@eos.nasa.gov](mailto:ornl@eos.nasa.gov)

### **15.2 Data Center Identification**

Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC) for Biogeochemical Dynamics  
<http://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/>.

### **15.3 Procedures for Obtaining Data**

Users may obtain data directly through the ORNL DAAC online search and order system [<http://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/>] and the anonymous FTP site [<ftp://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/data/>] or by contacting User Services by electronic mail, telephone, fax, letter, or personal visit using the contact information in Section 15.1.

### **15.4 Data Center Status/Plans**

The ORNL DAAC is the primary source for BOREAS field measurement, image, GIS, and hardcopy data products. The BOREAS CD-ROM and data referenced or listed in inventories on the CD-ROM are available from the ORNL DAAC.

## **16. Output Products and Availability**

### **16.1 Tape Products**

These data can be made available on 8-mm, Digital Archive Tape (DAT), or 9-track tapes at 1600 or 6250 Bytes Per Inch (BPI).

### **16.2 Film Products**

None.

### **16.3 Other Products**

These data are available on the BOREAS CD-ROM series.

## **17. References**

### **17.1 Platform/Sensor/Instrument/Data Processing Documentation**

ARC/INFO User's Guide (Version 7). 1994. Redlands, CA.

Welch, T.A. 1984. A Technique for High Performance Data Compression. IEEE Computer, Vol. 17, No. 6, pp. 8-19.

### **17.2 Journal Articles and Study Reports**

Newcomer, J., D. Landis, S. Conrad, S. Curd, K. Huemmrich, D. Knapp, A. Morrell, J. Nickeson, A. Papagno, D. Rinker, R. Strub, T. Twine, F. Hall, and P. Sellers, eds. 2000. Collected Data of The Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study. NASA. CD-ROM.

Sellers, P. and F. Hall. 1994. Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study: Experiment Plan. Version 1994-3.0, NASA BOREAS Report (EXPLAN 94).

Sellers, P. and F. Hall. 1996. Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study: Experiment Plan. Version 1996-2.0, NASA BOREAS Report (EXPLAN 96).

Sellers, P., F. Hall, and K.F. Huemmrich. 1996. Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study: 1994 Operations. NASA BOREAS Report (OPS DOC 94).

Sellers, P., F. Hall, and K.F. Huemmrich. 1997. Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study: 1996 Operations. NASA BOREAS Report (OPS DOC 96).

Sellers, P., F. Hall, H. Margolis, B. Kelly, D. Baldocchi, G. den Hartog, J. Cihlar, M.G. Ryan, B. Goodison, P. Crill, K.J. Ranson, D. Lettenmaier, and D.E. Wickland. 1995. The boreal ecosystem-atmosphere study (BOREAS): an overview and early results from the 1994 field year. Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. 76(9):1549-1577.

Sellers, P.J., F.G. Hall, R.D. Kelly, A. Black, D. Baldocchi, J. Berry, M. Ryan, K.J. Ranson, P.M. Crill, D.P. Lettenmaier, H. Margolis, J. Cihlar, J. Newcomer, D. Fitzjarrald, P.G. Jarvis, S.T. Gower, D. Halliwell, D. Williams, B. Goodison, D.E. Wickland, and F.E. Guertin. 1997. BOREAS in 1997: Experiment Overview, Scientific Results and Future Directions. Journal of Geophysical Research 102 (D24): 28,731-28,770.

### **17.3 Archive/DBMS Usage Documentation**

None.

## **18. Glossary of Terms**

None.

## **19. List of Acronyms**

AEAC	- Albers Equal-Area Conic
AVHRR	- Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer
BOREAS	- BOReal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study
BORIS	- BOREAS Information System
BPI	- Bytes Per Inch
CCRS	- Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing
CCT	- Computer Compatible Tape
CD-ROM	- Compact Disk-Read-Only Memory
DAAC	- Distributed Active Archive Center
DAT	- Digital Archive Tape
EOS	- Earth Observing System
EOSDIS	- EOS Data and Information System
GIS	- Geographic Information System
GPS	- Global Positioning System
GSFC	- Goddard Space Flight Center
LRRC	- Land Resource Research Center
NASA	- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NSA	- Northern Study Area
ORNL	- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
PANP	- Prince Albert National Park
SSA	- Southern Study Area
TGB	- Trace Gas Biogeochemistry
TM	- Thematic Mapper
URL	- Uniform Resource Locator
UTM	- Universal Transverse Mercator

## **20. Document Information**

### **20.1 Document Revision Date**

Written: 21-Feb-1997

Revised: 11-Feb-1999

### **20.2 Document Review Dates**

BORIS Review: 20-Jun-1997

Science Review:

### **20.3 Document ID**

## **20.4 Citation**

When using these data, please include the following acknowledgment as well as citations of relevant papers in Section 17.2:

The Manitoba Fire History data set was produced by:

Canadian Forest Service-Ontario Region  
Great Lakes Forestry Centre  
1219 Queen St.  
East Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada P6A 5M7

If using data from the BOREAS CD-ROM series, also reference the data as:

Stocks, B.J. and R.G. Zepp, "Trace Gas Exchange in the Boreal Forest Biome: Effects of Fire and Beaver Activity." In Collected Data of The Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study. Eds. J. Newcomer, D. Landis, S. Conrad, S. Curd, K. Huemmrich, D. Knapp, A. Morrell, J. Nickeson, A. Papagno, D. Rinker, R. Strub, T. Twine, F. Hall, and P. Sellers. CD-ROM. NASA, 2000.

Also, cite the BOREAS CD-ROM set as:

Newcomer, J., D. Landis, S. Conrad, S. Curd, K. Huemmrich, D. Knapp, A. Morrell, J. Nickeson, A. Papagno, D. Rinker, R. Strub, T. Twine, F. Hall, and P. Sellers, eds. Collected Data of The Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study. NASA. CD-ROM. NASA, 2000.

## **20.5 Document Curator**

## **20.6 Document URL**



REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.				
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE November 2000		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Technical Memorandum
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Technical Report Series on the Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study (BOREAS) BOREAS TGB-5 Fire History of Manitoba 1980 to 1991 in Vector Format			5. FUNDING NUMBERS  923 RTOP: 923-462-33-01	
6. AUTHOR(S) Brian J. Stocks, Richard Zepp, and David Knapp Forrest G. Hall, Editor				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS (ES)  Goddard Space Flight Center Greenbelt, Maryland 20771			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER  2000-03136-0	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS (ES)  National Aeronautics and Space Administration Washington, DC 20546-0001			10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER TM—2000—209891 Vol. 232	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES B.J. Stocks: Canadian Forest Service-Ontario Region, Sault Ste. Marie; R. Zepp: U.S. Environmental Protection Service, Athens, Georgia; D. Knapp: Raytheon ITSS, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland				
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Unclassified-Unlimited Subject Category: 43 Report available from the NASA Center for AeroSpace Information, 7121 Standard Drive, Hanover, MD 21076-1320. (301) 621-0390.			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)  The BOREAS TGB-5 team collected several data sets related to the effects of fire on the exchange of trace gases between the surface and the atmosphere. This vector format data set covers the province of Manitoba between 1980 and 1991 and was produced by Forestry Canada from hand-drawn boundaries of fires on photocopies of 1:250,000 scale maps. The locational accuracy of the data is considered fair to poor. When the locations of some fire boundaries were compared to Landsat TM images, they were found to be off by as much as a few kilometers.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS BOREAS, trace gas biogeochemistry.			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 12	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Unclassified	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE Unclassified	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL	

